

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE

9 April 2009

PERFORMANCE REPORT – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2008 (PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT AND NEW NATIONAL INDICATOR SET)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Strategic Priority: Prosperous City, Healthy City, Learning City

Corporate Improvement Priority: Delivering Customer Focused Services, Being 'One Council', Efficient and Effective Council, Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'

1. Why has the report gone to committee?

1.1 To provide members with a position statement in relation to the first nine months of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), implementation of the new National Indicator set during 2008/09 and also the councils plans to address findings from the annual MORI survey and provisional results of the biennial Place Survey.

2. Background

2.1 Members will recall that a new national performance framework is being implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators, which replace the Best Value Performance Indicators and Performance Assessment Framework Performance Indicators. As a consequence 2008/09 is a transition year as we develop baselines for the new indicators and ensure any corrective action will be effective in the new framework.

2.2 As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement. Targets have been agreed for these indicators through a process of negotiation with partners and government.

2.3 This is the third quarter corporate performance report relating to 2008/2009 performance information. The report follows a standard format and is risk based with its key focus on both potential and current performance issues in relation to the delivery

of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). It also provides an overview of the position for other national indicators and local performance indicators that have been retained to supplement areas in the performance framework that are not well covered by the new national indicator set.

- 2.4 In addition to performance indicators, information in relation to resident's perceptions is also available during this reporting period. Since 1995 Sunderland City Council has commissioned an annual survey to monitor residents' satisfaction with, and perceptions of, the council and the services it provides. The latest survey was conducted in Autumn 2008 and comprised 1260 interviews with residents across the city in addition to a 'booster' sample of residents from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups. Cabinet received a copy of the findings from the 2008 survey on 11 March 2009.
- 2.5 In addition to the annual MORI survey during 2008 the council has also undertaken the Place Survey. This is a statutory survey which takes place every two years. The results from the Place Survey are used as the basis to calculate a number of new national indicators some of which are included in the LAA. This report contains provisional results for those performance indicators and also planned improvement activity to address any areas of varying perspectives from the MORI survey. (Improvement activity will also be identified in relation to the Place Survey when provisional results are finalised and supporting datasets become available).

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In relation to the LAA **appendix 1** provides an overview of each of the specified outcomes and a traffic light assessment for each performance indicator and target. The traffic light assessment has three elements and includes:
- Trend analysis – detailing whether the indicator is improving or declining year on year a performance update for the data available at this point of 2008/09
 - Target analysis – detailing whether the indicator is on schedule to meet the targets that have been set
 - Control over the indicator – extent to which improvement activity will influence the performance that the indicator measures e.g., indicators from the Place survey will be high risk as improvement activity may not always impact and we can't always control improvements in performance
- 3.2 In relation to the complete national indicator set **appendix 2** provides an overview of our current position in relation to each indicator and also the local performance indicators that are either being retained or introduced in 2008/09 to supplement the new national framework. This will ensure we have a complete picture of service delivery and related improvements. We have mechanisms in place to measure all the national indicators required for reporting purposes during 2008/09. To ensure we can

measure our progress towards delivering the strategic outcomes the partnership has committed to (in the Sunderland Strategy and the council's Corporate Improvement Objectives) the indicators have been categorised in this order.

- 3.3 During the first year of the implementation of the new national performance framework we are only required by government to set targets for those performance indicators we have chosen to form part of the Local Area Agreement. However to ensure we maintain a robust commitment to service improvement across the partnership in Sunderland both directorates and partners have, where possible, set targets for the other national and local performance indicators for 2008/09. This cannot be done for all indicators as this is the first year of collection for a number of the new national indicator set and 2008/09 needs to be used as a base lining year against which we can target future improvement. It is also important to note that in relation to many of the new National Indicator set data is available at different points of the year and will not always readily follow the quarterly monitoring cycle.
- 3.4 The LAA has been subject to an annual review to identify and address any issues around delivery and to assess and benchmark progress over the three years of the agreement. In addition, the government describe the review as an opportunity to revise particular targets to reflect changes in local circumstances.
- 3.5 The absence of targets in previous reports was due largely to the unavailability of data from which baselines could be calculated during the first implementation year of the national indicator set and national changes to the definitions for the indicators from 2009/10. Cabinet approved delegated authority to the Chief Executive to finalise any amendments to the agreement in February 2009. There are also an additional 16 statutory attainment targets which take effect from the 2008/09 academic year (2009/10 reporting year).
- 3.6 In relation to residents perceptions there are a number of performance indicators that are derived from the TellUs Survey. The results for Sunderland can be found in the table below in addition to the comparative national average. Final confirmed results and additional benchmarks will be available in April 2009. Further analysis will be undertaken at this point.
- 3.7 Table 1 TellUs Survey Results

Ref	Description of indicator	LAA	S/land 2008	North east average	National average
NI 50	Emotional Health of Children	yes	66.9%	64.6%	63.3%
NI 69	Children who have experienced bullying		48%	49.2%	48%
NI 110	Young Peoples participation in positive activities		69.4%	67.7%	69.5%
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people		15.9%	13.7%	10.9%
NI 199	Childrens and young peoples satisfaction with parks and play areas		38.9%	37.8%	44.7%

3.8 It is increasingly important that the council understands the needs and requirements of its communities, and in particular the most marginalised and vulnerable groups to ensure that policies and services are designed to meet them. The Annual Residents' Survey is an important starting point in developing this understanding since it enables the council to measure satisfaction with the council, council services and local area and monitor

trends over time. It also provides the opportunity to conduct more detailed analysis of how perspectives vary amongst different groups of the population, for example by geographical area, age, gender, disability and ethnicity.

3.9 It is crucial that the council actively uses this information to help inform this understanding and in future engagement, service planning and improvement. It was therefore agreed that the key issues arising from the 2008 survey should be identified and for the council to consider how to respond to them. It should however be recognised that there is still a need for directorates to consider the wider results in more detail and across subgroups, looking at not only areas where improvement is needed but also where progress has been made and in relation to interventions in the previous year.

3.10 The 2008 survey presents a largely positive set of results although there are some issues to consider in order to improve performance further. **Appendix 3** outlines the key issues and the existing and planned interventions that are designed to respond to them. The sections are organised by key themes although some actions may cut across more than one theme.

3.11 Similarly to the approach taken with the MORI survey when the finalised Place Survey results are available interventions will be identified to respond to any emerging issues across both the council and partnership.

4. Positive Performance and Current Risks

4.1 Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets will be a key consideration in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people. In addition the number of targets that are met during the course of the LAA will influence the amount of Performance

Reward Grant paid to the partnership at the end of the three year agreement. Government Office has stated that the authority have made good progress with developing and bedding down of delivery arrangements across the majority of designated targets. There is a strong performance culture in place and evidence of innovative practice.

4.2 In relation to the period April to December 2008, two indicators are declining in performance and are not on schedule to achieve the target set in relation to 2008/09. These are:

4.3 **Providing all children and young people in the city with the best preparation and foundation for adult life**

NI 117 16 – 18 year olds not in employment education or training (NEET)

The latest performance update is 13% (In December 2008) against a target of 10.8% for the year. It is important to note the target (10.8%) is based on November to January average; therefore the January 2009 figure will be the most comparable point of the year to calculate progress against target.

Remedial Action

The NEET strategy group continues to review activity to tackle this issue and in particular is supporting the ESF (Engagement, Support and Prevention Project) which is focusing on preventive activity pre 16. The group is also awaiting the outcome of a Working Neighbourhood Fund bid which if approved will offer increased opportunities for young people currently NEET. Connexions and the Voluntary Youth Sector are also working together on a “March Blitz” activity to engage those hardest to reach, which will involve contacting young people by letter, telephone or through home visits to encourage them to engage in Education, Employment or Training activities.

4.4 **Improving the emotional health of children**

NI 112 Under 18 conception rate

Latest performance update is 59.3 per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17 compared to a revised target of 38.81 per 1,000 for the year; this refers to 2007 data, which was published in spring 2009 and highlights the national delay in publishing data for this indicator. Sunderland represents a 6% improvement since the 1998 baseline, compared to 6.4% in the North East and 10.7% improvement nationally. There has been an increase in the conception rate, from 55.5 to 59.3 per thousand from 2006 – 2007. The actual number of under 18 conceptions in 1997 was 327, reducing from 357 in 1998. Sunderland’s percentage leading to abortion in 2007 was lower than any other statistical neighbour at 37%.

Targets have been set by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to reduce the rate by 55% from the 1998 baseline to 2010. This would be a rate of 33.9 per thousand for Sunderland. A final assessment of progress will not be made until February 2012 (when data for 2010 becomes available).

Remedial Action:

- The Risk and Resilience Board are going to action the following to ensure a whole systems approach to reducing Teenage Pregnancy:
 - strengthen commissioning and leadership – dedicated young people’s commissioning manager (PCT/LA)
 - improve intelligence – agreed basket of indicators collected at a locality/ward level and for children in special circumstances
 - strengthened co-ordination and communication of key messages, campaigns and service information with dedicated officer support
 - strengthen infra-structure within children’s services to promote health improvement
 - improved co-ordination of services and pathways between tiers from drop-in services to sexual health advice to full reproductive health services
 - clearly publicised and branded young people focused health services including development of young people’s health card and implementation of You’re Welcome standards across reproductive health services for young people
 - at a universal level expansion of the Healthy Schools Programme to college settings, development of a coherent Personal Social Health Education programme (including sexual health and drug education) across schools, colleges and community settings, implementation of teen life check, establishment of school and college drop-ins, establishment of young people’s (college nursing service) and strengthening support to parents
 - reconfiguration of services to establish young people’s health advisors (sexual health, contraception, substance misuse and smoking) as part of integrated locality teams aligned to Targeted Youth Support
 - well publicised and accessible emergency contraception and Options advice including the establishment of Options advisor to offer counselling and strengthen development of contraceptive plan
 - convene Rapid Improvement Workshop to strengthen services for teenage parents including termination of pregnancy and services for young parents with a particular emphasis on support to prevent second and subsequent pregnancies and

ensure improved outcomes for teenage parents and their children across each of the five Every Child Matters outcome areas

- across the pathway targeting additional resource to “hotspot areas” and to the provision of services for children in special circumstances who are most at risk of becoming teenage parents:
- those from marginalised and disadvantaged communities including some black and minority ethnic groups; those who have ever been looked after by the local authority, fostered or homeless or have moved frequently (LAC and care leavers); those with low educational achievement; those who disengage with education; those not in education, employment or training; those from disadvantaged areas; those with emotional and mental health needs;

A detailed overview of LAA performance is attached as ***appendix 1***.

5. **Background Papers**

Local Area Agreement
Sunderland Strategy
Ipsos MORI survey report 2008

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